

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02916 01 OF 02 081717Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 HA-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SCS-06 CA-01
TRSE-00 SS-15 A-01 /084 W
-----117570 081806Z /50

R 081630Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8375
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
USDOC WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 2916

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PINT SHUM ASEC ES
SUBJ: LABOR PROBLEMS AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL AND THREATS TO AMCITS
WORKING THERE

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR A-07, (B) 77 SAN SALVADOR 5234

SUMMARY: ON JUNE 6 EMBOFFS CONVEYED TO ACTING PLANT MANAGER
OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED
CONCERNING KIDNAP THREAT TO MANAGER OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL.
ACTING PLANT MANAGER THANKED EMBOFFS FOR INFORMATION BUT
INDICATED HE AND HIS WIFE WOULD BE STAYING ON IN EL SALVADOR
DESPITE THREAT. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH ACTING PLANT
MANAGER, HIS WIFE, AND LAWYERS FOR EAGLE INTERNATIONAL,
EMBOFFS HEARD COMPANY'S VIEWPOINT ABOUT MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IJ LABOR PROBLEMS AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 1100 HOURS ON JUNE 6, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02916 01 OF 02 081717Z

POLITICAL/LABOR OFFICER CALLED ON JOHN VANDERBERG, ACTING PLANT
MANAGER, AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL PLANT LOCATED IN "ZONA
FRANCA" OR "FREE ZONE" JUST OUTSIDE OF SAN SALVADOR.
COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TOLD VANDERBERG OF RECENT INFORMATION THAT
THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED CONCERNING POSSIBLE KIDNAP THREATS
AGAINST "MANAGER OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL", STATING THAT THIS
INFORMATION DID NOT INCLUDE NAME OF POSSIBLE VICTIM. IN

ABSENCE OF RALPH NAGREEN, THE MANAGER OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL (WHO IS PRESENTLY IN THE U.S.), COMMERCIAL ATTACHE INDICATED THAT IN DESCENDING ORDER, KIDNAP THREATS SEEMED TO BE GREATEST FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL: JOHN VANDERBERG, BILL RATZBURG (AN AMCIT WORKING AS INSTRUCTOR), LUIS EDUARDO CHORRO (A SALVADORAN NATIONAL WORKING AS AN ACCOUNTANT), AND VANDERBERG'S WIFE (WHOSE MAIDEN NAME IS ZWICKER AND WHO IS A GRANDDAUGHTER OF FOUNDER OF ZWICKER MILLS, PARENT COMPANY OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL). EMBOFFS THEN OUTLINED SOME RECOMMENDED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS (MINIMIZE TRAVEL, STAGGER WORK SCHEDULE, ETC) TO MINIMIZE THREAT OF KIDNAPPING.

2. VANDERBERG THANKED EMBOFFS FOR THE INFORMATION AND THE RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS. HE SAID THAT EVER SINCE ARRIVING IN SAN SALVADOR, HE HAD ADHERED TO SOME OF THE PRECAUTIONS OUTLINED AND HAD BEEN WELL AWARE OF THE SECURITY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED EAGLE INTERNATIONAL. VANDERBERG STATED THAT, DESPITE THE NEW INFORMATION OF EMBOFFS, IT WAS HIS INCLINATION AND HIS WIFE'S INCLINATION TO STAY BUT THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO NAGREEN AND OTHER ZWICKER MILLS OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE THOUGH IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR RATZBURG TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND THAT HE WOULD SO RECOMMEND TO ZWICKER MILLS OFFICIALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02916 01 OF 02 081717Z

3. BETWEEN 1700-1900 HOURS ON JUNE 6, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AND POLITICAL/LABOR OFFICER MET WITH VANDERBERG AND HIS WIFE AND THE SALVADORAN LAWYERS FOR EAGLE INTERNATIONAL AT THE LAWYERS' OFFICE IN SAN SALVADOR. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT REQUEST OF DR. RICARDO GUILLERMO CASTANEDA (AN EX-FOREIGN MINISTER OF EL SALVAODR) AND DR. LUIS NELSON SEGOVIA, LAWYERS FOR EAGLE INTERNATIONAL. THEY DISCUSSED SOME OF THE RECENT LABOR PROBLEMS THAT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL HAD HAD. SPECIFICALLY, THEY MENTIONED A RECENT ELECTION HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AT THE EAGLE INTERNATIONAL SITE TO DETERMINE IF STITAS, THE WORKERS' UNION, HAD THE 51 PERCENT APPROVAL OF THE WORKERS TO BECOME THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGENT FOR THE PLANT. DR. CASTANEDA STATED THAT DESPITE IRREGULARITIES IN THE VOTING, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR HAD CERTIFIED THAT STITAS HAD WON 51 PERCENT OF THE VOTE; HE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD ON AN "EXTRA-OFFICIAL" BASIS THAT THE MINISTRY HAD REACHED THIS DECISION ON STRICTLY "POLITICAL" GROUNDS, HOPING TO AVOID FURTHER PROBLEMS AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL.

4. SEGOVIA SAID THE PROBLEM WAS NOT SO MUCH THE FACT OF A DULY CERTIFIED UNION AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL BUT THE POLITICAL FORCES AT PLAY AMONG THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNION OUT AT THE PLANT. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP HAD TIES TO THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) BUT THAT THE UNITED POPULAR ACTION FRONT (FAPU) WAS COMPETING FOR CONTROL. SEGOVIA COMMENTED THAT THIS INTERNAL RIVALRY HAD MADE "VERY DIFFICULT" THE NEGOTIATION OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE UNION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT FOR BPR AND FAPU WAS NOT SO MUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH EAGLE INTERNATIONAL BUT USING SUCH AN AGREEMENT TO HELP DISRUPT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE "FREE ZONE" AND USE IT AS A PRECEDENT FOR WINNING THE ALLEGIANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 02916 01 OF 02 081717Z

OF THE OTHER, NON-UNION WORKERS IN THE ZONE. CASTANEDA SAID THAT THIS MEANT THAT THE PROBLEMS AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL WERE NOT REALLY SO MUCH "LABOR" IN NATURE AS THEY WERE "POLITICAL". HE SAID THAT INFORMATION ON FAPU/BPR ACTIVITIES AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL HAD COME FROM SOURCES WITHIN THE POLICIA DE HACIENDA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02916 02 OF 02 081721Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-06 CA-01 TRSE-00 HA-05
ACDA-12 SS-15 A-01 /084 W
-----117664 081806Z /50

R 081630Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8376
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS, CZ
USDOC WASHDC
USDIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 2916

5. VANDERBERG INDICATED EAGLE INTERNATIONAL'S WILLINGNESS TO LIVE WITH A UNION BUT SAID THAT HE HAD OTHERS AMONG EAGLE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT WERE NOT WILLING TO SEE THE UNION USED FOR EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ENDS. EMBOFFS ADVISED CASTANEDA (WHO WAS LEAVING FOR THE U.S. THE NEXT DAY) THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO CALL ELEANOR HICKS, SALVADORAN DESK OFFICER IN STATE DEPARTMENT, TO SEE IF A SIDE TRIP TO WASHINGTON MIGHT WELL NOT BE ADVISABLE TO CONVEY COMPANY'S POINT OF VIEW. CASTANEDA SAID THAT HE MIGHT DO THIS AND THAT HIS PRIMARY REASON FOR GOING TO U.S. WAS TO TALK TO ZWICKER MILLS OFFICIALS ABOUT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED WITH STITAS AND THE "POLITICAL" PROBLEMS FACING EAGLE INTERNATIONAL. AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION, VANDERBERG SAID HE AND HIS WIFE STILL PLANNED TO STAY ON IN EL SALVADOR, DESPITE KIDNAP THREAT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02916 02 OF 02 081721Z

6. COMMENT. EMBOFFS FOUND IT SOMEWHAT STRANGE THAT STITAS, WHICH IS PART LEFTIST LABOR FEDERATION FENASTRAS WHICH IN TURN IS PART OF THE LARGELY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CONFEDERATION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (CUTS) COULD FIND ITSELF BEING PUSHED AROUND SO EASILY BY BPR AND FAPU. LABOR OFFICER SAID THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITH A SMALL INDEPENDENT UNION BUT NOT WITH A UNION WITH TIES TO THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE USUALLY NOT PUSHOVERS IN SUCH MATTERS. CASTANEDA AGREED IT WAS STRANGE BUT SAID THAT HE HAD IT FROM GOOD SOURCES THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES ABOUT LEFTIST EXTREMIST THREATS TO FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN, AMONG THEM EAGLE INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL, AND THINKS THERE MAY WELL BE A PLAN ON PART OF ANTI-GOES EXTREMIST GROUPS TO DISRUPT "FREE ZONE", ONE OF THE FEW AREAS IN WHICH THE GOES APPEARS TO BE MAKING HEADWAY. THE APPARENT GOAL OF THESE EXTREMIST GROUPS IS TO FURTHER DAMAGE PRESTIGE OF GOES.

DEVINE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THREATS, LABOR STRIKES, SUBSIDIARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS02916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780240-0062
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780681/aaaacrmn.tel
Line Count: 217
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 481f408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SAN SALVADOR A-7, 77 SAN SALVADOR 5234
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2436852
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR PROBLEMS AT EAGLE INTERNATIONAL AND THREATS TO AMCITS WORKING THERE
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, ASEC, ES, US, EAGLE INTERNATIONAL SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/481f408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014